

U.S. APPLN NO. 10/009,959  
AMENDMENT A

ATTY DOCKET 3827.088

Amendments to the Specification

In the specification amended on 5/9/2005, please replace paragraph [0005] with the following:

[0005] The inventive solution is based upon the idea, that the forces occurring during expansion and shrinking of the parquet elements can only be transmitted to the sub-floor without an impermissible localized accumulation of forces when they are distributed and evenly diffused, within the adhesive layer, over the entire adhesive surface. In order to achieve this, it is proposed in accordance with the invention that the adhesive layer has a thickness of 0.5 to 5 mm  $[[N/mm^2]]$  and that the adhesive in the hardened condition exhibits a shear strength which is less than that of the sub-floor. The shear strength of cement floors is an average of approximately 1.2 N/mm<sup>2</sup>. In accordance therewith an adhesive is selected, of which the shear strength is less than 1.2 N/mm<sup>2</sup>, preferably 0.6 to 1.0 N/mm<sup>2</sup>. Preferably, a reaction adhesive is selected which hardens with a Shore Hardness (A) of 20 to 35. Thereby it is achieved that, in the case of expansion or shrinking, the forces occurring at the adhesive layer are evenly distributed over the entire adhesive surface. There are no force or tension peaks, which can lead to a release or to a break in the adhesive connection. The distribution of the forces ensures that the floor covering elements deform less in the case of excessive moisture or in the case of drying out. The covering elements are supported and held over large surface areas, without occurrence of breakage areas in the adhesive. Thereby, a bowing-out of the floor covering wood is avoided. On the other hand, in the case of drying out, the formation of gaps is reduced. Research has

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shown that the covering elements, in the case of absorbing excessive moisture, becomes somewhat compressed along their contact flanks. As a result of the pressing of wood, minor deformations occur within the wood in the edge area, which however are barely discernable from the outside. In the case of the inventive elastic adhesion, one obtains a substantially even surface loading or force distribution over the surface area. This means that the greater the adhered surface is, the greater is the force transmission or distribution. Besides this, a bonding is achieved in a way that protects the sub-floor. A substantially elastic joining also results in a substantial reduction in foot-step noise in comparison to the hard adhesives. The surprising benefit of the inventive floor covering adhesion is comprised therein, that despite low shear strength of the employed adhesive, the avoidance of tension peaks makes it possible to achieve a substantially higher force transmission than with the convention rigid DIN adhesives.

In the specification amended on 5/9/2005, please replace page 4, paragraph 0007 with the following:

[0007] The invention is further concerned with the use of elastic adhesives with a higher breaking elongation, which hardens with a shear strength of less than  $1.2 \text{ N/mm}^2$ , preferably from  $0.6$  to  $1.0 \text{ N/mm}^2$ , for adhering wood floors onto a sub-floor preferably comprised of cement or concrete. The inventive adhesive is preferably applied to the sub-floor using a toothed trowel to a thickness of  $0.5$  to  $5 \text{ mm}$  [ $\text{N/mm}^2$ ].

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